

MINUTES
Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 3, 2014, 9:00 A.M.
Charlotte County Building Construction Services Conference Room
18400 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

****Please note that one or more Charlotte County Commissioners may be in attendance at any meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee****

Members Present

Clifford Kewley, District 5, Chairman
Jack Landis, Member-at-Large, Vice Chairman
Rich Parchen, District 4
Robert Pierce, FL Shore & Beach Preservation Association
Dick Whitney, District 1

Members Excused

Tommy Brock, District 3
Katherine Ariens, District 2

Staff Present

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, District 4
Lynette Auger, Parks and Natural Resources, Charlotte County
Chuck Mopps, Charlotte County Engineering Division
Gayle Moore, Recording Secretary

Guests Present

Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants
Steve Reilly, Sun Herald

Chairman Clif Kewley called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Recording Secretary called the roll and it was determined that a quorum was present.

On motion by Mr. Landis, seconded by Mr. Whitney, and carried unanimously, the Minutes from March 6, 2014 were approved as presented.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Chairman Kewley called for any additions or deletions to the Agenda. None were offered.

Commissioner Truex joined the meeting.

Chairman Comments

Chairman Kewley spoke regarding new projects that would be of concern to the membership, particularly in the City of Punta Gorda. Expansion and connection of the rim canal was the first subject, affecting the very large number of boater's in the area with regard to access to Charlotte Harbor. Chairman Kewley inquired whether there is a role for BSAC and the County to play in that decision. Mr. Mopps spoke to that issue, noting the addition of new Punta Gorda boating community members on MAC and also noting that this is more in MAC's purview, because it speaks to the issue of navigation. There is little concerning the beaches and shores specifically in

this question. Chairman Kewley asked how will they be handling the permitting and the funding of it; Mr. Mopps responded that it would be possible to amend the Alligator Creek MSBU to include that funding. He did observe that it is "a City thing" and as such, they want to connect to County infrastructure, which is fine, there are procedures in place for that. He said that he felt the initiative was where it needed to be, as primarily a citizen initiative, and that this is not the forum to address it. Chairman Kewley said he appreciated the viewpoint and was looking forward to matter moving forward.

The Chair raised a second issue, of providing some seawall or groin protection for the Bayfront Center, noting there is lots of wave action in this area. Stabilization needs to be considered along with the issue of cost and permits; further discussion ensued with Mr. Mopps on this subject. The Chair noted that potential costs are the current issue; if the costs for improvement are too high, it will of course have to wait. Mr. Mopps observed that the City has a standing contract for seawall maintenance as well as staff on hand to do some of the work.

Citizen Comments on Agenda Items

None were offered.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Deutsch spoke indicating his agreement with the Chair that BSAC should be involved in and kept abreast of the issues which had been raised, and he felt there could be some useful ideas shared.

Commissioner Deutsch next turned to the Sea Turtles issue which had been raised last month, noting that he had a meeting with some folks who had useful input about the matter; Commissioner Truex indicated he had gotten calls, but had not met with anyone on the subject. Commissioner Deutsch spoke about having a public hearing on the subject to get more citizen involvement, and noted that the matter had been pulled from the Commission agenda to allow for these initiatives. Ms. Auger spoke to this, noting that her group had met with the attorneys to discuss it. She noted that the primary concern was that the Planning & Zoning Board had recommended removing the code portion; Ms. Auger explained that needs to be in there for the ordinance to be effective in terms of enforcement. She said she spoke to FWC about it, and got a contact person who can explain why creation of this ordinance is required of all counties (not just Charlotte County). Ms. Auger will be discussing with FWC why it has been recommended that the County take control of the code portion of the matter. A discussion followed on the proper timeline for the matter; Ms. Auger observed that staff would work from the existing ordinance since we still have the new language finalized.

Mr. Poff commented that his group had also reviewed it to ensure that there would be no adverse effect on the permitting of the beach projects; they had recommended that since language changes had the potential to affect the permitting activity because it went from more specific to more generalized language. He commented on the need for defined policy stated in the language; this helps FWC appreciate that there is a plan in place for compliance. Further discussion ensued on improving the language.

Old Business

Update on the Stump Pass 10-Year Inlet Management Plan – **Charles Mopps** and **Michael Poff**, presenting)

Chairman Kewley comments on the handout from Mr. Poff's group and asked for the update status from Mr. Mopps.

The dredging protocols were discussed, and the possibility for re-use of dredged material on northern tip of Palm Island. Additionally, he noted that excess material (beyond what Palm Island requires) can go to Manasota Key. A detailed discussion ensued, including a number of questions from Mr. Pierce, natural processes that may return sand to the area over time without the need for actual renourishment, and how people were coming to understand that process; touching on the 50% loss calculation; the installation of groins and the different styles of groins that might be considered.

Mr. Poff noted that beach engineers suggest language that expresses the goal of the project but does not lock it in to specific actions, since this can turn into a problem as conditions change from year to year. These are "dredge management protocols" which the Committee members should read and share with their constituency, and get back to us with comments and suggestions. Further detailed discussion ensued.

Mr. Pierce raised a question about federal funds possibly forthcoming as a result of damage from Hurricane Debbie; Mr. Poff noted that a contingency from the County met in D.C. with FEMA officials and while it was an instructive meeting, there was still no determination made or indication of a positive change in their answer. (As a reminder, there were both negative and positive beach changes as a result of H. Debbie.) Mr. Poff described it as an on-going battle, probably impacted also by other major storm events elsewhere in the USA. Commissioner Truex commented on the assistance that Congressman Rooney provided in getting the meeting set up; he noted the source of the impediment at this point, and also that there seemed to be some sentiment on the County's side. Further discussion ensued.

Chairman Kewley had a question on moving sand and where will it go when Palm Island doesn't need it – can it go to the county park? Mr. Mopps responded that the goal is to keep it from becoming too expensive; they want to keep it within reason for the capability of the pumping we will be using. Mr. Mopps also spoke to the issue of the easement requests portion of the process, noting that Manasota Key residents are currently more receptive to getting sand on their property than they were in 90s.

Mr. Pierce asked if they foresaw any delay on getting the permit because they had not yet gotten answers from the state or the parks. Mr. Mopps thought not, noting that this is "pre-work" for that permit which holds down information requests from the state later on, so that even though they are a bit behind the curve now awaiting responses, there should be fewer delays at a later point in the process..

Commissioner Deutsch commented on the sand issue and having the state on-board; he also offered praise for the methodology on this, even though he recognized that everyone wishes it could be moving quicker. He noted that people are supportive, which is crucial. He noted that his biggest concern was the ongoing level of cooperation from state agencies which is appreciated, and that the project needs to move ahead while this is still the case. He asked what the Commission can do to implement this project moving ahead while we still have favorable response from the state. In particular, he hoped for approval before November. Mr. Poff noted that it needed to be submitted this month, nothing to do with the state, but that the federal process takes 15 months or more. He stated they would give the state to end of the week and if there is no answer by Monday, there would be a follow-up call. Thirty

days after that, they should have their response back and if there are still lots of questions, then the process will need to get our Representatives involved. He indicated he was not concerned with the timeline at this point – state agencies have met their prior promises, so he is not worried. Further discussion ensued on these points.

New Business

Mr. Whitney asked again if the county was aware of the South Gulf Cove channel on the up-water side of the dam going into South Gulf Cove – a place where there has been mangrove cutting. He noted that the shoreline now has riprap replacing mangroves and is now an open field. Mr. Mopps identified the issue as a restoration project which has been permitted through DEP for the benefit of South Gulf Cove. He provided details on the permit, which does not allow for the direct exchange of water between the community and the bay, and on the purpose and progress of the project, which is officially called the Trout Creek Restoration.

Citizen Comments

None.

Staff Comments

On the subject of beach tilling, Mr. Mopps provided some comments on the contract bid process and the efforts to get bids more in line with past action; in the end, they will have the same contractor this year as last year. He also commented on Lynette Auger's input on identifying the location of active nests.

Member Comments

Mr. Landis asked whether anything has been heard from Corps Engineers on Lemon Bay Cove project? No one had any updated information on this.

He also stated that while both Commissioners are here he would like to voice some of the concerns of Manasota Key Residents about this boat race event. Promoter Jerry York was apparently talking to the restaurant owners who asked about crowd control and law enforcement involvement; they say that he told them that only three officers would be present to control drinking, traffic, etc. The restaurant owners also are saying that the event will cost them about \$20,000 a day; there will be no place for employees to park, since the promoters are taking over the available parking. Mr. Landis said that he encouraged the Commissioners to be available at and after the race, because there will be problems; he also stated his feeling that the promoter's effort to date is underwhelming.

Ms. Auger commented that there will be more than 3 officers, in addition to FWC officers and private security; so the restaurateurs' comments are incorrect. They will be there for crowd control, for property damage prevention, and that environmental issues are protected.

Mr. Landis asked who will handle clean-up? Again, third-hand information but apparently Mr. York had stated that there's no money in the budget for clean-up. Commissioner Deutsch noted that there had been many meetings to voice these sorts of concerns; while there are certainly challenges, especially with regard to ingress/egress, he stated he personally is cautiously optimistic. The County's approach is to put public safety is first, and also to preserve the integrity of residents and workers.

Mr. Landis, asked if there is a contract with anyone to clean up afterwards. Commissioner Truex stated that clean-up is required, but that the promoter will be using volunteers and county staff to do the work. Commissioner Truex added that he has heard from several restaurateurs out there, and he stated that the parking will NOT be closed on Wednesday. More details were offered on the anticipated periodic closings during the preparation time. Commission Truex also gave his opinion that there will not likely be 30,000 attendees for the event.

Next Meetings

Chairman Kewley reminded all of the upcoming meetings.

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be Thursday, **May 1, 2014** at 9:00 a.m. in the BCS Conference Room.

Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Parchen and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Moore
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved by

Clifford Kewley, Chairman
Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee